To Elizabeth Pease Nichol.

122

Weymouth
Sept 20th
(1858, ~~9~~)

My dear Friend

I feign the occasion of the return of your Boston Friend — Mr Robson, (who has been travelling from Mrs Stanley Dow to Mrs Stanley Beersheba, & found it all very rich) to thank you cordially for your kind & welcome letter. It is highly probable, as you say, — indeed I have thought so from the beginning, — that the change in our Modus operandi of raising money, may bring us less from Great Britain. But if it brings more from home — if it even lessens our receipts every way, it will be for better, if, at the same time, it awakens the spirit & devotedness & diligence in the promotion of the cause to excite which ~~The~~ funds are for. I am

confirmed by the passage of time since last January. That we have done wisely to avoid that risk of ruining the one means which is so apt to cause forgetfulness of the object. I now see more clearly than at first; that the Fair was about to take the place of the cause: that when people spoke of it in high terms (following my lead, too,) they were thinking not of the principles — the cause, the conscience & sanctity or even of the standard of what the effort was praying the Lord to — but of somehow & other, crying Lord's round Jericho, till the walls fell. Now it would never do to have our outside love, to whom we look for the making of the future abolitionists to supply our places as we drop off, turned & think that keeping up a fair was the end of the law for righteousness; & that must necessarily be the effect, now that no danger or discredit attaches

to it — but the contrary :— and it was becoming a thing of course that the Abolitionists should furnish the Pro-Slavery Ladies with pretty New-years presents, & be snubbed civilly when they were not pretty enough :— "because it is a present for Cousin Jenny — & she has been abroad — & those people that go abroad come home so particular — & with such good taste! — & I am afraid there is not any thing quite recherché enough :, & perhaps you will have prettier things next year — indeed I do hope you will exert yourselves, for I should have liked to buy here, — the Law has such a reputation! — Good morning!" I have Italicised the words given with a tender little inflection not quite amounting to Emphasis. A few dozen such conversations over the counter, increasing & increasing since year before

last Y. the one previous, operated as instruction upon my family & myself. And as the thing was our own, (as the down land to Lindsey—) i.e. formed simply by my industry when it was dangerous & indispensable it & asking devoted funds to help me, and as it had answered & was beginning to depart its purpose, I could not but decide to ask them help in another way for the cause — one not liable to delusion as to its efficacy. The time had not come last year, but it had fully come this. Especially as the commercial crisis had made that change in the Market, which assured me that, under our disadvantages we ought not to ask for more goods, as we could not sell them unless we went into trade, & made a business of it for the whole year. I had, in fact, done

this for the last three years — advising what should be sent — gradually getting such contributions as had at last been money in the donors' hands — purchasing through my own friends in every continental capital wherewith to make the best of the wares, so to speak. & paying the various bills, which went so deep into the receipts, that the fact became at once evident that some other way of raising money must be better. The accidental effect of all I could do was to make our own country contributions less attractive. So though my fund had continued, we should have been leaning wholly on the European friends, whose generosity one should shame to wear out. I know how difficult it has been to them, for years, to keep up their contributions. I knew that in some places they had greatly lessened, owing to "fowls" like Julia Griffiths & many whose there was no depth of earth, & scratching & destroying where we

had [illegible] — (such never seek new grounds, but follow the lower) I knew that all our French contributions — i.e. all our Protestant ones, would never again be sent & they were a quarter of the whole, for with the last they complained of Mrs Stowe as a heretic, & told me they were about to send a pastor to collect for them new (London) Amid on the Boulevard Sebastopol. Of course I could not but know the consequences. Poor Pressensé! — whose ambition it was that the "Archives du Christianisme" — his periodical — should keep up the credit of French Protestantism as no less Spiritual than Catholicism, while more Spiritual. — alas — he has dampened the flame of the Spirit & the intellect alike — & made the bêtise of an Anti-

Christian Record in his "Archives."
Dr. Monod, his Colaborateur consoled
with Shareholders & then absconds
exclusively when here — never even
brought Mrs Stowe, before whom
he had performed so many gen-
uflections, & shed so many tears
in honour of Uncle Tom. This
makes Mrs Stowe indignant to a
high degree, & she has written
the admirable article in Conse-
quence which you will have
seen in the Standard.
My Lord Lord Cadiz, who em-
braced me when I explained to
them that I was a heretic
though the American Society was
the only thing in my approach to a
Low body, in its practice, though
it could not have a doctrine
Theologically Speaking — & said —
"Oh — what does it signify — Read the
Bible & you will know the doctrine
— they now write, since Monod's
return" do not be displeased

with us, dear friend, but we feel that people who do not believe in justification by faith alone can do no good, & so we are glad to hear you are going to change your plan, as we could not have cooperated any longer." "We admire Miss Suff.'s candidness in enumerating her blames, but we are afraid she relies on her own righteousness for salvation (& yet I had told them that she had been led, through Anti-Slavery to renounce Catholicity.) If I ever return to Paris I can set it all straight (except in one instance where there is a school of American boys in question, whose parents begin by this time to influence & thro' Dr. Wood probably.) We shall now turn to the Sentiers in Paris— Now that Seneca has cut her tie to New England, as the signal of the South, and I don't see

we shall find our Catholic friends more liberal than ever. It is they who formed a Society there with us. It comprises many illustrious & beloved names, but we would not commit the customary female folly of reciting lists of them while there, & to setting them into the Congress as members of an unauthorised Society; & to ask for an Authorisation would be to put ourselves upon a level with the Society Protectrice des animaux of which I am a Lady-Patroness notwithstanding all the joking it makes. If little itself, it is the cause of wit in others, many of its members are "good folk" as we say here in N.E. There are the good St Hilaires, & de Valmont — from the former of whom I have just got a most fine parchment letter — &

abundance of others. I have never yet so much encouraged as to the prospects of the cause. The very circumstances that would seem discouraging — such as to see such immense multitudes turning off on what we consider (& justly) false issues, — staking life & fortune about Ranges — buying up Missouri lands — putting down their slaves in Emigrating Societies, — building anti-Slavery churches — endowing all sorts of Societies but anti-Slavery Societies — establishing new Political parties to gobble up all the anti-Slavery feeling we create — all this, in the Philosophical sense, is cheering as progress, however encouraging as short coming

Just half the nation is exactly where we were as an intellectual point of view. If as their hearts work, they will get their eyes open. I am content. No matter if we do raise less money — we shall not want so much this year by $1200. (one Editor's Salary.) For we have by stopping the fund, been able to make arrangements for that amount of economy. I am very glad to see by the advocate that you (I mean the British friends) will not be burdened with the expense, responsibility & wearing exertion of setting up a National Ecclesiastical Journal. I am glad the Matthews Should do what he likes, but not glad to see a man, who Times was

Work as in this Country
& whom I heard, Injury
& misrepresenting as an Englishman
Having the Sadvocate & the
British friends as his Supporters,
After having failed to get
the B & L to take him up.
If Louis Napoleon could hand
for Nicholas in the first Place
as an Imperial Brother, he
would have gone to War with
England. If Mathews Could have
got the welcome of Scobell he
would not have gone further
for one. Character is one in
Emperor or Baptist Corporation,
So do not, my dear friend,
think I am degrading either
of those parties by the comparison
It is the same low
type in both, that seeks just
itself. I quite agree with you
that there seems an evident
Providence in sending a Church Historian

to churches; It is so at the first glance. But this matter is now past the complimentary stage. Every soul with independence enough to make any the object of such a protest, passes out of the churches. It is but common sense to keep smothered to send it to the end. What course of sending the French & Swiss protest to the Evangelical Independents? — It did but brand us, as not fit to become it — encourage the enemy to strain & swallow French Evangelism like a boa-constrictor a rabbit. And that was the best possible exemplification of the policy: affording, — I mean, the best chance of any other for success by ~~setting aside~~ overlooking the American Society. Then again, this protest is to be signed, if I understand the guide, Evangelical, by all denominations. To which shall it be sent? to all? — is it well then, to mark the American

Anti-Slavery Society instead of
proscription by shutting it,
or with ostensible by merely
placing it on a level? —
This seems to me in the
circumstances of the case, a
manifest impropriety in case
such a National Power should be for the
in the hands sent to a National Anti-
Slavery Deity, composed of
Members of all the Churches,
the majority of whom have
by fidelity in taking the
very course a protest should
recommend, shown themselves
worthy to be the organ of
British Anti-Slavery feeling.
Send a good boy to whom
naughty boys. The naughty boy
will but stimulate them to
do worse. The very Sabbaline

protest, though it contained so much feeling & and so much fact and reality lost incalculably in efficacy, by being sent as it was, only to Mrs Stowe. I mean nothing deprecatory by "only" — in this connection — I love & honour Mrs. Stowe, & so does the one American Society; — I do but wish to notice that, knowing how vain & self deceptive it would be to force that protest into the care & publication & mercy of any church or body, she was obliged to send it to the Fair. & we were at the disadvantage of being able to do nothing in that capacity. If she could not send it to us as the Fair. See. It was not for the honour of the cause

way then at Watertown

(upon) could me in such integrity to persuade
for us to make more of it. Or
do otherwise by it than she determined. But our old friend the
Duchess of Sutherland simply made
a mistake in conduct when
She let Lord Shaftesbury meddle
or make in the matter, &
when She sent the protest to
Mrs Stowe without direction
it to be by her sent to the
Am. Soc. But She so judicious
ly avoided the B. F. Com. [redacted]
[redacted] that I cannot enough
appreciate her good sense so
far. It was a mere oversight
I think on her part. A sort
of delicacy, not a good sort I
am afraid, sometimes prevents
me from saying the exact
thing I ought to say, at the
exact time, & this was one
of the times. So true as the

has been, on so many instances to the cause & to us all. She deserved that I should have been so true as to write to her at the time, but I did not & I am ashamed of it. That protest ought to have been carried from city to city, from village to village here & made the occasion "a great awakening." (as they call the revival of Whitefield time.) The light of it is very impressive. & I trust that it will yet reveal the welcome & be just to the love that it should have been at first. When Mrs. Stowe's heart suffers so it can be so. & I nothing doubt her heart will suffer it ultimately.

I write too much concerning

of unhatched chickens, you will be right to say. — yet it is always well to examine beforehand, the ground & scope of the least action, & consider the best economy of forces. So for me, (meaning the founder of the Ann Lee in G. B.) I am to cooperate with much interest, I would be understood on what terms, that we may not be exhausted by self-defeating work, nor used by selfish persons for their purposes.

My sister Anne's arrival has, as you may imagine set us all in commotion. We were so disappointed that she could not see you, but travelling such an invalid, as our brother then was,

She lost all the Irish & Scottish pleasures she had planned. My brother is unfortunately sent this by his Lieutenant Colonel. Anne is forbidden to write at present on account of her eyes, but bids me say every thing most cordial & affectionate to you. It was a great loss & her not having seen you & Dr. Nichol — but she considers the World her country & hopes to visit Europe again with only the more certainty, for having once done so. I have just been reading some pamphlets which illustrate the fashioning unconscionable nature which Slavery, (I will think) has had in our Americans. They are the ones that throw the real

York trustees & the Boston Scientific Council of the Dudley observations ending & leaving the matter between them. Superficially informed as I am, I go with the N. York Trustees, - for I think I see in the conduct of the Boston Men, the same spirit that threw to Just Dr. Jackson's discovery into the hands of an ignorant Apothecary, because it could be taken easily out of their affairs, & just into those of the Duties of the Mass. Gen'l Hospital. But I hold myself ready to take whichever side, (in my own mind) shall ultimately prove the right one. At present I can only say it looks dark for the Scientific

Council; thought before any examination, I wished to see with Good Mrs. Dudley & her young protegé Dr Forbes. I would get the pamphlets to send you, if I did not suppose that you will already have received them from head-quarters.

We look forward to a most interesting quarter-of-a-century anniversary — our silver wedding to the Cause. I wish we may get the aforesaid silver. Mrs Stowe says "I feel like taking hold with you, heart & soul." — but pray say nothing to "commit" her (as our N.E. political phrase is — for it seems a part of Aunt Harriet's integrity to say nothing to entangle any one! Still, this encouraged me & I repeat it to encourage you. — though she may feel less stron-

ly drawn, or the mind led
in some ecclesiastical way
hindered, of which she is not
aware.

I urge this first occasion
most cordially to invite
Dr Nichol & yourself, to
this our reunion of the
members & friends of
the Anti-Slavery cause the world
over." None are more
dear or desired. If, as I
fear, you cannot come
in person, come in the
Spirit. Write to us, at least,
a word that shall tell upon
the religious, the Scientific
& the Anti-Slavery world:
which can be done, as you

So well knows, by a single word. "allen." — the generality of Europeans will say. but by 25 years of cooperation you are entitled to say "allens"!

For all of which Our blessing is summoned upon you & yours, for the Lords sake — the Lands sake, — the world's sake!

Always, my dear friend,

Yours faithfully & affectionately

W. W. Rasmussen.

Your dear friends the Tibbs
Lipses & Simmons are
as usual — Anna P. a
little better. She has been
this summer more ill than
usual.

Pray pardon my
handwriting. It is
caused by a strained
shoulder which I find
some inconvenience in
moving.

mentioning to you, nothing it may
Will you allow me to
Wilson Jr Robson, your County
man, a new acquaintance of
mine, from whose high quali-
ties & high feelings (as I could discern
them in one interview) I cannot but
hope much for the cause?